

### **Biographies continued**

**Tim Supple** has directed, adapted and devised theatre, opera and film throughout the UK and in the US, Europe, India and the Middle and Far East. He has worked regularly at the NT and the RSC. In the 1990s he was Artistic Director of the Young Vic Theatre. He is currently developing productions of *The One Thousand and One Nights* for his own company, Dash Arts, and the great Persian epic *The Shahnameh* for the NT.

**Stanley Wells**, Chairman of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, has reviewed extensively for *Kaleidoscope*, *Front Row*, *The TLS*, *Shakespeare Survey*, and many other publications. His anthology *Shakespeare in the Theatre: An Anthology of Criticism*, is published in both hardback and paperback by OUP.

### **Forthcoming Literary Lunchtime Events at The Shakespeare Centre (all at 1pm):**

Wednesday 9 September: Catherine Belsey - *Why Shakespeare?*

Wednesday 7 October: Nick Asbury - *Exit, Pursued by a Badger: The RSC Histories Cycle*

Thursday 22 October: Greg Doran - *The Shakespeare Almanac*

Friday 6 November: Hermione Lee - *Shakespeare and Biography*

Wednesday 18 November: David Crystal - *Shakespeare's Sonnets and Original Pronunciation*

All at £4.00 (£3.50 concessions; £3.00 Friends of The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust) Tickets can be purchased on the door.

Wednesday 25 November: *An Evening with Bill Bryson* (details forthcoming)

For further information on the above and our other public courses, please contact [education1@shakespeare.org.uk](mailto:education1@shakespeare.org.uk) or tel. (01789) 204016

### **Conference Acknowledgments**

The Society for Renaissance Studies, the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and the CAPITAL Centre, University of Warwick, for financial support; Cambridge University Press for hosting book launch; Susan Brock for support and advice; Katherine Ledwidge for invaluable administrative assistance; many thanks to all conference volunteers.

\*\*\*Shakespeare Bookshop: 10% off on production of this programme.\*\*\*

# REVIEWING SHAKESPEAREAN THEATRE: The State Of The Art

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2009

The Shakespeare Centre,  
Stratford-upon-Avon



Society for Renaissance Studies

The CAPITAL Centre  
Creativity and Performance in Teaching and Learning  
THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WARWICK

NOTTINGHAM  
TRENT UNIVERSITY

Conference Organisers: Dr Paul Edmondson (Head of Education, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust); Dr Paul Prescott (Associate Professor, University of Warwick); Dr Peter J. Smith (Reader, Nottingham Trent University)

## Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September:

9.30am Registration

10.00am Keynote lecture: Michael Billington (QE Hall)

11.00am Coffee (James I Lounge and Bar Area)

11.30am Panel: Michael Coveney, Andrew Dickson, Carol Chillington Rutter, Tim Supple and Janet Suzman. Chaired by Stanley Wells. (QE Hall)

1.00pm Sandwich Lunch (Wolfson Hall)

2.00pm Seminar: Twelve delegates discuss papers (Wolfson Hall; auditors welcome)

OR: Visit to *Shakespeare Found: A Life Portrait* (entry free with Conference name badge)

4.00pm: Lecture: Peter Holland on 'The Rhetoric of Reviewing' (QE Hall)

5.15pm: Close

7.30pm: Performance of *As You Like It* at the Courtyard Theatre

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September:

10.30am Post-show review and reflection (QE Hall)

OR: Workshop (see description below) with James Stredder (Wolfson Room)

11.45am Future conference network plans (QE Hall)

12.15pm Closing Reception and book launch

*WORKSHOP: Evaluating performance in the 2009 RSC As You Like It: an 'active discussion'*. Using a range of methods of 'active discussion', we shall collectively review the acting from the previous evening and, simultaneously, the personal basis of our own critical practice. We shall consider the performance as a kind of actual 'social encounter' and try to uncover reasons for variations in audience receptivity. (Places limited; please sign up on notice-board.)

## Biographies

**Michael Billington** has been drama critic of *The Guardian* since 1971. He is also the author of several books including the authorised biographies of Harold Pinter and Peggy Ashcroft and, most recently, a study of post-war British theatre entitled *State of the Nation*. He teaches a theatre course to University of Pennsylvania students and this year was delighted to receive both the Pragnell Shakespeare Award and an honorary doctorate from the University of Warwick.

**Michael Coveney** is chief critic of *Watsonstage*, the leading theatre website, and a freelance contributor to *The Independent* and *Prospect* magazine. He has been a staff critic on the *Financial Times*, *The Observer* and the *Daily Mail* and has written several books including biographies of Mike Leigh, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Maggie Smith.

**Andrew Dickson** has been *The Guardian's* online arts editor since 2005, responsible for commissioning stage, art and classical music coverage, as well as editing the paper's theatre blog. He studied English at Cambridge University, later returning to specialise in Renaissance literature. A second edition of his *Rough Guide to Shakespeare* has just been published by Penguin (2009). He appears regularly on the BBC.

**Peter Holland** is McMeel Family Professor in Shakespeare Studies in the Department of Film, Television and Theatre at the University of Notre Dame. From 1997 to 2002 he was Director of the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon and Professor of Shakespeare Studies at the University of Birmingham. He is editor of *Shakespeare Survey* and author of *English Shakespeares: Shakespeare on the English Stage in the 1990s*.

**Carol Chillington Rutter** is Professor of English at the University of Warwick and Director of the CAPITAL Centre. In 2008, she took over as the reviewer of the annual work in Shakespeare in Performance in England for *Shakespeare Survey*. Her most recent book is *Shakespeare and Child's Play: Lost Boys on Stage and Screen* (Routledge 2007). She holds a Warwick Award for Teaching Excellence.

**James Stredder**, formerly Head of Drama and Theatre Studies at the University of Wolverhampton, is the author of *The North Face of Shakespeare: Activities for Teaching the Plays* (new C.U.P. edition published in July 2009). He is a Visiting Lecturer for the MA in Shakespeare and Education at The Shakespeare Institute.

**Janet Suzman** started her understanding of Shakespeare under the fresh-eyed tutelage of Peter Hall & John Barton in the iron-clad Wars of the Roses. She has played more than half a dozen of the heroines, and directed two tragedies in her native South Africa where the *zeitgeist* of the day usefully reflected the dodgy political dangers of Elizabethan England. She's done lots of other stuff in a long career.